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Providence Independent, V. 5, Thursday, December 18, 1879, [Whole Number: 236]

Providence Independent

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PROVIDENCE INDEPENDENT.

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NOTHING.

VOL. 5.

TRAPPE, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1879.

WHOLE NUMBER, 236.

ON THE SIDEWALK.

From the Washington Gazette.
Here the publican walks with the sinner
And the priest in his gloomy cowl,
And Drives walks in the motely crowd
With Lazarus, cheek by jowl;
And the daughter of toil, with her fresh young
heart,
As pure as her spotless fame,
Keeps step with the woman who makes her
mart
In the haunts of sin and shame.
How lightly trips the country lass
In the midst of the city's ills,
As freshly pure as the dew-drops on grass
That grows on her native hills!
And the beggar, too, with his hungry eye,
And his lean, war-free and crutch,
Gives a blessing the same to the passer by
As he gives him little or much.
When time has beaten the world's tattoo,
And in dusky armor dight,
Is treading with endless footsteps through
The gloom of the silent night,
How many of these shall be faintly felt
And still sink to slumber sweet,
While many will go to a sleepless bed,
And never a crumb to eat.
Ah me! when the hours go joyful by,
How little we stop to heed
Our brother and sister despairing cry
In their woe, their bitter need!
Yet such a world the angels sought
This world of ours we'd call.
If the brotherly love that the Father taught
Was felt by each for all.

FUN AND FROLIC.

TO A LATE MOSQUITO.

Meandering monster of melodious buzz,
Dear Suzzi!
How didst thou happen all alone to wait
So late,
Till cool November sits upon the hills
And chill the day's heat?
The air, and every other insect is
All frigid!
The miasma that cradled thee
Now see
All calm and cold and sheeted over nice
With ice!
About my nose the blanket I enfold—
I'm cold!
And yet thou wanderest on wanton wing
To sing!
Ah! Thy voice is lucky, still as pegg
Thy less!
I bet thy drowsy hum is about
Worn out,
And those rheumatic wings just keep thy boat
Afloat!
Thou wert Apollo, but I feel thy bore
No more!
Come! I will let thee on my arm to-night
Alight,
And ply thy feeble gimlet where the skin
Is thin!

Now, work away, brace up! Now, steady, there!
Take care!
Gracious! Thou hast nibbled off heels over head
—Pell dead!
The dread avenger with scythe and glass,
—Alas!
Has gobbled thee! Thou passest in thy chips,
Thy lips
Shall quaff the navorous chalice of gore
No more!
Like human life the days were very sweet,
—But fleet;
Thy choicest morsels, quickest disappear—
—Save here!
—An *Irish-American* Queen.

LUCK IN A TUNNEL.

I am an old miner. Not one of the nowadays Washoe and Nevada stripes, but an old '40 California miner. I have been engaged in all descriptions of mining transactions, except the new fangled one of mining stock in companies—"feet," I believe they call it. Among my varied undertakings was one operation in a tunnel, in which I and my partner engaged in the summer of 1852.

One afternoon in that year, as I was carrying up a bucket of water from the river to our tent at the top of the bank, my foot caught under a large stone and my perpendicular was at once changed to a horizontal posture, while the water from the overturned bucket spread itself in various directions. With a few expletives of rather a forcible character, quite customary and common in that region and period, I raised myself to my feet again, and picking up the bucket, was about to retrace my steps to the river, when my attention was attracted by a folded paper which had been placed under the which caused my fall. When my foot tripped, the stone was overturned, and the paper, folded in letter form, lay exposed to view. Bending over, I picked it up and proceeded to examine it. It was written in pencil, in characters very irregular and stiffly formed, as if made by a person with a wounded hand. The contents were as follows:

"If this letter should fall into the hands of any person, I wish to inform him that I have been attacked and mortally wounded by two partners, who wished to obtain my money. Failing to discover it, after wounding me, they have fled, leaving me here to die. Whoever gets this letter will find, buried in a ravine at the foot of a blazed tree twenty-five paces due north of this, a bag containing \$5,000 in gold dust. That it may prove more fortunate property to him than it has to me is the wish of

ANDREW FOREST."

I stood for some moments after reading the letter, like one awakened from a dream. I could not convince myself that the letter in my hand was genuine, and read it over and over again, thinking I might get some clew from the handwriting to the real author. It might be a trick got up by my partners to raise a laugh at my expense. No; the place where it was found, and the purely accidental discovery, rendered such a surmise very improbable. I sat down on a log and turned the matter over and over in my

mind for some time. At last I got up, and, pacing off the required distance in the direction mentioned in the letter, I came to a large tree. Carefully examining it, I discovered a scar, clearly indicating that the tree had been 'blazed' at some remote period. This was 'confirmation strong as Holy Writ,' and I immediately went to work to discover the locality of the ravine here I was at fault. Nothing of the kind was to be seen. To all appearances a stream of water never had passed in the neighborhood of the tree. This was not encouraging, and I sat down on the ground and read the letter again, to see if I had not mistaken some of its directions. No; I was in the right place; but where was the ravine?

A tap on the shoulder aroused me from my meditations, and, looking up, I saw my two partners, who loudly abused me for having neglected the preparation of their supper. As an excuse I showed them the letter and detailed the manner of my finding it. To my surprise, they were as much excited by its perusal as I had been, and we all looked around perseveringly for the ravine, but without effect for some time. At last Jack Neslitt, who had been a miner since '48, said:

"I think there has been a ravine here, but it has been filled up by the rains."

On close examination we decided that his supposition was correct, and after some consultation we determined to commence digging early the following morning.

Morning came and we repaired to the spot with pick and shovel. Jack proposed that we should follow the course of the ravine, which appeared to run into the body of the hill, rather than to dig down; for, as he said, we would be more likely to find the bag in the bed of the ravine by following it up than by digging down in any one place. The result was that in a few days we had formed quite a cave in the side of the hill.

We worked at the tunnel for four days without finding the bag. On the fourth day Jack proposed that he and my other partner, Bill Jennings, should carry the dirt we had excavated down to the river and wash it, leaving me to dig in the tunnel. In that way thought they might 'make grub' while searching for the hidden money. I thought the idea foolish, but as they entered so eagerly into my views regarding the buried bag of dust, I made no objections to the plan, and dug away with redoubled energy. In fact, I had thought so much about the object of our search that I had become utterly regardless of almost everything else. I had dreamed of it when sleeping, mused on it when waking, and it had obtained complete control of my mind. Day after day we worked, I digging, and my companions washing; but, strange to say, I did not become discouraged. They said nothing about the bag of gold dust, and I asked them nothing about the results of their washing the excavated soil.

We had worked about three weeks, and had formed a tunnel extending about fifteen feet into the hill when, completely tired out, I sat down to rest in the cave. I had only intended to sit a little while, but five minutes had not elapsed before I was sound asleep. I was awakened by a crash, and found my feet and legs completely covered by a mass of dirt and stones. The front part of the tunnel had fallen in, and in a manner buried me alive. About ten feet of the tunnel remained firm, and from my observation of its structure prior to the accident, I was convinced that I had no reason to apprehend any danger in that quarter. My partners had carried dirt enough to the river to keep them busy there for the rest of the day; so I had nothing to hope from their assistance. The question that first presented itself to my mind was—how long can life be sustained in this confined state? I had read a dozen times statistics in relation to the amount of air consumed hourly by human beings' lungs, but, like almost everybody else, had merely wondered at the time, and then forgot the figures.

How much I would have given then to be able to recall them! The next thought was: How can I proceed to extricate myself? If I went to work with shovel and pick to clear away the dirt that had fallen, it was very likely that all I should be able to remove would be immediately replaced by that which would fall in from above. This was pleasant! I racked my poor brain to devise some means of liberating myself, but without effect.

Leaning against the wall in utter despondency, I was about to throw

myself down on the ground and await my fate, when I observed that quite a current of water, on a small scale, was making its way down the side of the cave. At first I was alarmed, as I thought it might loosen the earth above, and bring another mass on my head. The next moment the thought struck me it might be turned to my advantage. Why could not I direct it so that it would wash away sufficient earth in its progress to the outlet of the cave to make an opening large enough to allow me to crawl through it? Even if I had only succeeded in making an air-hole, it would enable me at least to exist until my partners would come to my rescue.

Carefully examining the course of the water, I succeeded in finding the spot where it entered the cave, and, to my great joy, ascertaining that I could easily direct it by cutting a channel out of the sides of my prison to the mass of earth that blocked up the entrance of the tunnel.

The air at this time was quite hot and stifling, and I became aware that whatever was done must be done quickly or I should perish for want of oxygen.

After cutting a channel for the water to flow toward the entrance, I entered the cave, and rejoiced to see that it flowed with redoubled force. Taking my shovel and pushed it through the moistened earth as far as I was able, and then awaited the further action of the water. In a few minutes I could push it further, till at last it was out of my reach. Then placing the pick-handle against it, I pushed both as far as I could. With what eagerness did I watch to see the first evening made by the water, but I was soon gratified by observing that it flowed in a steady stream in the direction in which I pushed the pick and shovel.

In a few minutes I discovered a faint glimmering in the distance, which might be an opening or the effect of an excited imagination. I scarcely knew which. But the doubt soon resolved into a certainty, and an opening some five inches in diameter speedily disclosed itself.

Larger and larger the opening grew; lump after lump of earth was washed away by the stream, till the channel became large enough to place my head in and call lustily for assistance.

Just as I was drawing my head back, I caught sight of a buckskin bag. Hastily seizing it, I found it was the one we were in search of, and which, but for the accident, I never would have found. Wishing to surprise my companions, I concealed it, and redoubled my cries. In a few minutes they came running up the hill, and soon liberated me from my unpleasant position.

"Well, Ned," said Jack; as he shook my hand, "I am glad to see you're safe, old fellow, the more so as Bill and I have been deceiving you a little. You know we have been trying all the summer to get you into a tunneling operation, and you have only laughed at us."

"Yes," I said,

"Well, when you got that letter, we made up our minds that we would go into the job with you; not with the hope of finding any bag, but because we knew you would work twice as hard with such an inducement. Intending, meanwhile, to wash the excavated dirt. This we have done; and my boy we have not made less than \$300 any day since we began."

"Then you think the bag a humbug, do you?" I asked.

"Of course," said he.

"Well, I don't, and intend going on looking for it," said I.

"Now, what is the use of being foolish?" quoth Bill Jennings. "We have got as much dirt as we can wash for some time, and it pays. I can't see the use of continuing such a wild goose chase as the hunt for that bag."

"Be that as it may," said I. "I intend to follow it up."

"Well, Ned, we may as well tell you first as last. I wrote that letter in order to get you to go into tunneling."

"And the blazed tree," said I, "how about that? The blaze certainly two years old."

Jack hesitated.

"Why, you see," said he, "we found that tree, and wrote that letter to suit it."

Then what do you think of this? I asked, showing him the bag I found in the cave.

Jack was nonplussed. On opening the bag we found about \$3,000 worth of gold. Jack would never confess but always insisted that the variance between the statement in the letter and the amount in the bag was proof

enough that there was no connection between the two. I don't think so, however, and I believe that Jack's assertion of having written the letter was untrue. We could never ascertain anything about Mr. Forest, so we divided the money between us.

Saved by a Panther.

You ask me to tell you a story. Well, as I know of no better way in which to spend the long evening before us, I will try to do so on one condition. Each must try his hand at it when I am through.

We were weather-bound at a rude Western inn, almost on the verge of civilization. The day just passed had been a stormy one, and we had got through it as best we could. Now, as the darkness came on early, and the long evening loomed up before us, we gathered about the roaring fire of huge logs, which burned bravely upon the hearth, and prepared to pass it away by story telling, a device to which travelers in our situation are always prone to resort.

The one who had been appealed to for the first story was a man of some fifty years of age, who had followed the occupation of a peddler. He had the best turnout in the stable which that part of the country had ever seen in his line, though he had told us that once he had for years carried a pack on his back. But by his own exertions and industry he had risen above that now, and had a snug sum laid up against the time when he should give up his business, and take the remaining years of his life in an easier way.

We gave our consent to his conditions and he at once commenced his story:

"It is now nearly fifteen years ago that the adventure befell me that I am about to relate."

It was before I gave up my pack for a horse and cart, though I had already made up my mind that I could afford it. I was traveling through a wild section of country—wilder, if possible, than this about here. Between the settlements there were long stretches of forest filled with wild beasts, and now and then you came upon a band of strolling savages. Besides these, there was the usual class of villains, horse thieves, and renegades, who would not hesitate to take a man's life if they thought it to their advantage to do so.

One night I stopped at a tavern which stood in the midst of a little settlement of no more than a dozen log houses. I had been round them and drove what bargains I could, and in the morning was to go on at as an early an hour as possible, for I learned that I had nearly a score of miles to go before I should reach the next settlement.

In the evening there was assembled in the bar-room all the male denizens of the place, among them was one whom I at once set down as a villain. His looks plainly showed that there was little he would hesitate to do if there was anything to gain. Again and again I caught him looking toward my pack, which I had placed in one corner of the room, near the bar; and at once I felt sure he was looking at me as though calculating whether or no I should be a dangerous antagonist in case he should rob me of it. The more I saw of him the less I liked his looks, and I felt relieved when at last he left the room for home.

I was up betimes the next morning, and as soon as I had eaten my breakfast I started. As I left the settlement behind me I could not help glancing about me to make sure that the man of whom I had formed so poor an opinion was not following me; but he was not to be seen. Hardly any one was stirring out of doors and there was little life except about the tavern, or where the white smoke curled up above the roof of each cabin.

Once within the forest I hurried on, desiring to put as great a distance as I could between me and the settlements in as little time as possible.

A feeling of danger oppressed me, which I found it impossible to shake off. I am not naturally timid, or given to presentiments, as many are; but on this occasion there was a sort of fear upon me of which I could not rid myself, try as hard as I might.

All the morning I kept on in this way, and by noon felt that I had put a distance between myself and the settlement that I had no longer to fear any one that I had left behind me.

As I had learned from the landlord that I would not be able to reach any human habitation before nightfall, I had taken my dinner with me, and now, feeling the need of it, sat down by the edge of a clear stream which crossed the road, and commenced my noontide meal. Only a man who has walked as I had that morning can know the relish I had for the bread and meat which had been provided for me, and when the generous supply had disappeared I almost wished

that there had been more.

The extra exertion I had made, and the hearty meal of which I had partaken, made sleepy, and, placing my pack under my head, I closed my eyes, thinking I would take a few minutes rest before going onward.

I did not mean to go to sleep, yet in less than five minutes I was unconscious of all that was passing around me. How long I slept I know not. I might have been a few minutes or it might have been an hour, but I awoke at last with a start, and a sense of great danger hanging over me. I did not start up or move hand or foot. A certain something, I could not tell what, seemed to chain me down.

I opened my eyes and looked about me, but saw nothing; and I was just on the point of making a motion to get upon my feet, when I heard the slight cracking of branches above my head. Looking up in the direction of the sound I beheld a sight that almost froze the marrow in my bones, and seemed to turn my blood to ice. A huge panther was crouching there ready to spring upon me.

As motionless as one dead I lay and gazed upon my terrible enemy. To stir as much as a hand I knew would be the signal for the beast to spring upon me. Its fiery eyes were fixed upon my face, and its tail was moving to and fro, like that of a cat.

Hope of escape there seemed none. My doom was settled. The panther had me as surely in his power as though at that moment his claws were fastened in my flesh.

The agony of those few moments I shall remember to my dying day. It haunts me in my sleep, and often I start up in affright, dreaming that the terrible scene is being enacted over again.

All at once the fiery eyes of the panther were turned from me, and fixed upon some object a little to the right. What could it mean? What new danger was approaching me from that direction? By turning my head a little I was enabled to see what it was. A man was creeping toward me with knife in his hand. He was not a dozen feet from where I lay, and at the first glance I recognized him.

It was the man whom I had made up my mind was a villain in the tavern the night before, and whom I feared all the forenoon might be following me. The presentiment I had was not groundless then, but I had not counted on a double danger.

Cautiously the villain crept toward me, with a murderous look in his face. The villain, while he sought to murder me, was not aware of his danger; for the panther no longer had his eyes fixed upon me. It was watching every motion of the villain, and each instant I expected that it would leap down upon him.

If it would only do so before he reached my side it would prove my salvation.

Closer and closer the villain drew toward me. Only a moment more, and he would be so near me that he could reach me with his outstretched hand. There was not an instant to be lost, and I was just on the point of springing to my feet when, quick as a flash of lightning the panther cleft the air, and landed squarely upon the shoulders of the villain, with his claws and fangs buried deep in his flesh. A terrible cry of terror and rage burst from his lips as he went down with his blood dyeing the earth. At the same instant I was upon my feet, and drawing a pistol, I sent a bullet through the beast. It did its work well, though even in death the brute clung to its victim, and when at last struggles were over, I pulled it from the bleeding man, I saw that it had done its work. The impress of death was on the villain's face, and in a few moments he was dead.

I left them both lying there and hurried on to the next settlement, where I told my story. With help I returned, and the dead man was carried back to his home, where no one seemed to care for his fate.

In my home I have the skin of the panther stuffed, and should you ever come my way, gentlemen, I should be pleased to show it to you."

LEARN A TRADE.

I never look at my old steel composing rule that I do not bless myself that while my strength lasts, I am not at the mercy of the world. If my pen is not wanted, I can go back to the type case and be sure to find work, for I learned the printer's trade thoroughly—news-paper work, job work, book work and press work. I am glad I have a good trade. It is a rock upon which the possessor can stand firmly. There is health and vigor for both body and mind in an honest trade. It is the strongest and surest part of a self-made man. Go from the academy to the

printing office or the artisan's bench, or if you please, to the farm—for to be sure, good farming is a trade, and a grand one at that. Lay thus a sure foundation, and after that, branch off into whatever profession you please.

You have heard, perhaps, of the clerk who had faithfully served Stephen Girard from boyhood to manhood. On the twenty-first anniversary of his birthday he went to his master and told him that his time was up, and he certainly expected important promotion in the merchant's service. But Stephen Girard said to him: "Very well. Now go and learn a trade."

"What trade, sir?"

"Good barrels and butts must be in demand while you live. Go and learn the cooper's trade, and when you have made a perfect barrel bring it to me."

The young man went away and learned the trade, and in time brought his old master a splendid barrel of his own make.

Girard examined it, and gave the maker two thousand dollars for it, and then said:

"Now, sir, I want you in my counting-room, but henceforth you will not be dependent on the whim of Stephen Girard. Let what will come, you have a good trade always in reserve."

The young man saw the wisdom and understood.

Years ago, when the middle aged men of to-day were boys, Horace Greely wrote:

"It is a great source of consolation to us, that when the public shall be tired of us as editors, we can make a satisfactory livelihood at setting type or farming; so that while strength lasts, ten thousand blockheads, taking offense at some article they do not understand, could not drive us into the poor house."

MARRIED WITHOUT SHOES.

About twenty years ago a young fellow named Johnson, in the wilds of the Cheat Mountains, in West Virginia, made up his mind to be married.

"But you have not a penny," remonstrated his friends.

"I have two hands. A man was given two hands, one to scratch for himself, and the other for his wife," he said.

On the day of the wedding Johnson appeared in a whole coat and trousers, but barefooted.

"This is hardly decent," said clergyman. "I will lend you a pair of shoes."

"No," said Johnson; "when I can buy shoes I will wear them—not before."

And he stood up to be married without any shoes on his feet.

The same sturdy directness showed itself in his future course. What he had not money to pay for, he did without. He hired himself to a farmer for a year's work. With the money he saved he bought a couple of acres of timber land and a pair of sheep, built himself a hut, and went to work on his ground.

His sheep increased; as time flew by he bought more; than he sold off the cheaper kinds and invested in South-down and French Merino. His neighbors tried by turns raising cattle, horses or gave their attention to experimental farming.

Johnson, having once found out that sheep-raising in his district brought a handsome profit, stuck to it. He had that shrewdness in seeing the best way and that dogged persistence in following it, which are the elements of success.

Stock-buyers from the eastern market found that Johnson's fleeces were the finest and his mutton the sweetest on the Cheat. He never allowed their reputation to fail—the end of which course is that the man who married barefooted is now worth a large property.

The story is an absolutely true one, and may point out a moral for hordes of stout, able-bodied men.

He that pelt at every barking dog must pick a great many stones.

The untruthful witness is tried for perjury per jury.

Rock-crystal is nothing but a geologist's strata-gem.

The Christmas time comes on apace, and charity begins to hum.

The borrower's motto—"Lend me a loan and I'll let you alone."

A political paradox—Empty pails only can keep their heads above water.

Virginia creepers are being planted by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, on the sides along the track. It is done to prevent land slides. England, long ago, made a thing of beauty out of her railroad embankments, which in America are usually an eyesore.

Miscellany.

Frogs are mist before they are gone.

The string game—Making a fish-net.

All blacksmiths have at least one voice.

The sweat game—Handling a duck saw.

Neptune's coat of arms—The crest of a wave.

Who can tell the value of a smile? The bartender.

The aerial quicksey is what they call hanging in Kansas.

'Ah,' said a deaf man who had a scolding wife, 'man wants but little hear, below.'

A fond parent, on hearing his son bang the piano, remarked, 'There's music in the heir.'

A cur that no one will own will get a tin kettle at a given distance as quickly as a \$100 important dog will.

We presume the axle trees of railroad car-wheels are called journals because of their rapid circulation.

Why are good resolutions like squalling baby at church? Because they should always be carried out.

'That beats the Dutch,' as the Teutonic hotel-keeper said when one of his guests left him between two days, forgetting to pay his bill.

Medican man—And then, with regard to the swelling at the back of your head, I don't apprehend anything serious, but you must keep your eye on it.

A college orator, in a spike-tailed coat, points the way to true greatness, and then goes out and rents himself as a pitcher for a professional nine.

Strange that nobody ever thought of trying the effort of a barber's breath on the potato bug. It's pretty hard remedy, but something must be done.

'Now, tell me candidly, are you guilty?' asked a lawyer of his client in the county jail. 'Why?' do you suppose I'd be fool enough to hire you if I was innocent.'

Sea-bathing is hardly ever indulged in by the Russian ladies, on account of the jealousy felt by the nobility against permitting any familiarity with the serf.

A tramp was found dead out West with this bit of information pasted on the inside of his hat:—Violet-le-Duc, died of apoplexy, brought on by overwork.'

What terminates a man's smile about as quick as anything else, is to have his cane slip out of his hand and drop through a grating in front of an unoccupied building.

A young lady thinks it's better to have the gas jet turned low of a Sunday night when her beau's there. She wisely believes that one 'flame' in a room is enough at a time.

An old gentleman, who had been intolerably annoyed by the hideous noises made by a drove of donkeys, mildly asked: 'Do not these creatures ever die of softening of the brain?'

Johnny says his mother makes a great cry if his little sister goes without her shade hat. She doesn't want her to get freckled, but she doesn't seem to care a bit how much his father tans him.

A prominent Congressman took his daughter to task the other evening because she permitted her lover to stay awhile after 10 o'clock. 'L. p.,' she said, 'we were only holding a little extra session.'

There are 30,000 deaf mutes in the United States, and fifty places of worship where services are conducted in the sign language.

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